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Patent

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a Datalink Service Provider route for each individual digital message, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing a unique prioritization tag for the each individual digital message based on factors provided by Datalink Service Providers, the unique prioritization tag comprising user chosen routing priority criteria selected from the factors; ~~said routing priority criteria comprising route status information from the Datalink Service Provider, said priority criteria further comprising at least one of the following criteria:~~
    - i) ~~cost of sending the digital message;~~
    - ii) ~~speed of delivery of the digital message;~~
    - iii) ~~security of the digital message; and~~
    - iv) ~~integrity of the digital message;~~
  - b) supplying the prioritized criteria from the user to an overlay software;
  - c) automatically choosing the Datalink Service Provider route by evaluating the prioritized criteria in the overlay software; and
  - d) routing the each individual digital message through the chosen Datalink Service Provider route.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of tracking the chosen Datalink Service Provider route for accounting purposes.
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of preparing a billing record of the chosen Datalink Service Provider route.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising repeating steps a) through d) for a next user.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising repeating steps a) through d) for a next digital message.
6. (Reinstated, formerly claim 6) The method of claim 1 wherein said prioritized criteria comprises at least one of the following criteria:
  - a) cost of sending the digital message;
  - b) speed of delivery of the digital message;
  - c) security of the digital message; and
  - d) integrity of the digital message.
7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of choosing a Datalink Service Provider route is performed at a member of the group consisting of a vehicle, a user initiation facility, and a government control facility.
8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing a unique prioritization tag comprises providing a manual tag.
9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing a unique prioritization tag comprises providing an automatic tag.
10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said overlay software comprises at least one of the following:
  - lookup tables;
  - logarithmic calculations and real-time information on cost;
  - available Datalink Service Provider routes; and
  - Datalink Service Provider route status information.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of updating the real-time information.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of updating comprises time-based updates.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of updating comprises querying at least one Datalink Service Provider.

14. (Currently Amended) An avionics routing method for an individual digital message, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a unique prioritization tag for the individual digital message based on factors provided by at least two Datalink Service Providers, the unique prioritization tag comprising user chosen routing priority criteria selected from the factors; ~~the routing priority criteria comprising route status information from a Datalink Service Provider and further comprising:~~

i) ~~a cost of sending the digital message;~~

ii) ~~speed of delivery of the digital message;~~

iii) ~~security of the digital message; and~~

iv) ~~integrity of the digital message;~~

b) supplying the priority criteria from the user to an overlay software;

c) evaluating the priority criteria by the overlay software;

d) automatically choosing a Datalink Service Provider route from the at least two Datalink Service Provider service providers by the overlay software; and

e) transmitting the individual digital message through the chosen Datalink Service Provider route.

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15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of tracking the chosen Datalink Service Provider route for accounting purposes.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising repeating steps a) through e) for a next digital message.

17. (Reinstated, formerly claim 17) The method of claim 14 wherein said prioritized criteria comprises at least one of the following criteria:

- a) a cost of sending the digital message;
- b) speed of delivery of the digital message;
- c) security of the digital message; and
- d) integrity of the digital message.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said overlay software comprises at least one of the following:

lookup tables;  
logarithmic calculations and real-time information on cost;  
available Datalink Service Provider routes; and  
Datalink Service Provider route status information.